

## Appendix A.

### Healthy Kids – Safe Streets Action Plan

#### Draft School District and Local Plan Policy Recommendations

##### School District and Local Jurisdiction Plans

- 1. Add policy to school district and local plans** establishing a communication process among stakeholders at the earliest stages of planning for new or retrofit infrastructure (school sites, park sites, bike, pedestrian and bus network)

*“Representatives of school districts, local planning, public works, park departments and Intercity Transit should be identified and agree to meet at the very earliest stages of planning for new facilities (i.e. schools, additions to - or maintenance of - the transportation network, or siting of parks) in order to consider benefits of collaboration, connections or co-location of facilities that encourage walking, biking or transit use.”*

- 2. Add policy commitment to school district and local plans** to examine long range cost/benefit analysis of school siting decisions. Include long term transportation costs to the community as a whole (school district, households), and the cost/benefit to students able to walk and bike to school.

*“School district and local planning representatives will work to identify long term/holistic costs/benefits of various school siting options in order to maximize both short and long term goals for student health, as well as efficient use of land and local resources. Use tools such as Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for evaluating the health effects of a policy, project or program and invite local health officials into the process.”*

- 3. Add policy language to school district and local plans** for early coordination between school district and local planning representative for design discussions of school layout, bike, pedestrian and transit linkages and focused infrastructure improvements (that result in safe walking, biking and fewer vehicle miles traveled to school). This should include drop-off and pickup areas that separate vehicles from walk and bike arrival areas; and front entrance overhangs for bike parking protection, with adjacent windows and occupied spaces that can preclude bicycle theft.

- “ School districts, local planning, public works departments, and transit agencies will work collaboratively early in the design stages of new or retrofit school sites to maximize safety and increase health and wellbeing of students and neighborhoods by establishing safe walking and biking networks, connections and safe arrival areas.”*
- “School districts and jurisdiction planners will make improvements around schools a high priority within 1 mile of school – focusing effort within ½ mile whenever possible.”*
- “School districts should enter into agreements to use parking lots with light use - during school drop-off and pick-up times (i.e. church parking lots) - that are within walking*

*distance of schools, to assure cleaner air around schools and encourage all students to get some exercise.”* Church parking lots located within walking distance of schools are already serving some school districts. Oak Harbor has a walking school bus program from a church parking lot site in action now.

- d. *“Identify where added bike/pedestrian connections – such as linked cul-de-sacs – can encourage walking and biking from the neighborhood to schools and other destinations.”*

**Action for policy discussion and agreement of 1-3 above:** Convene a discussion group of the school district, jurisdiction and other stakeholders to:

- e. Review draft policy language and get agreement to include policies in plan update processes;
- f. Consider collaboration to identify ways to better fund infrastructure improvements to and around schools;
- g. Consider pulling resources to jointly apply for grants for infrastructure improvements;
- h. Consider smaller school site templates where collaboration can supply some shared facilities instead of requiring large tracts of land (i.e. shared sport facilities rather than large acreage school sites that drive schools to fringe areas where walking and biking by many students is difficult or impossible.)